

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The following remarks are responsive to the Final Office Action mailed February 3, 2005.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to for various informalities. Specifically, the Office Action states that Figure 3 is rejected for clearly identifying various features mentioned in the Detailed Description. Accordingly, a corrected version of Figure 3 is filed herewith. The Office Action alludes to other drawings that suffer the same deficiency, but is not clear as to which drawings are objected to besides Figure 3. Accordingly, Applicant cannot respond to any objections other than those related to Figure 3.

Claim Objections

The claims are objected to for various informalities. Specifically, claims 1, 10, 19, and 12 are rejected because the Examiner appears to believe the word “and” must be used instead of or in addition to a semicolon to separate claim elements. The Examiner is invited to review the rules and specifically cite in the CFR and/or MPEP sections where an “and” is required to separate claim elements. Otherwise, Applicant is not compelled to insert the word “and” where claim elements are clearly separated by a semicolon, as Applicant believes that the use of a semicolon alone is sufficient under the rules to separate claim elements. As for claims 6 and 7, the specific informalities listed in the Office Action have been corrected in the amended claims above.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, claim 25 is rejected for the phrase, “setting to set inactive one or more bits”. Applicant has amended claim 25 to remove “to set” in the above phrase, which should overcome the rejection.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claims are presently in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 12-15, 19, 21, and 23-26 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Juffa (U.S. Patent No. 6,247,117). Specifically, independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 25 are rejected as being anticipated by Juffa. Claims 1, 10, 19, and 25 have been amended to reflect that the memory image (in claims 1 and 10) and the mask storage area (in claims 19 and 25) are generated by performing a save state operation (in claims 1, 10, and 19) and an instruction (in claim 25). Juffa, on the other hand, does not teach a memory image or mask storage area as claimed by applicant nor a memory image or mask storage area that is generated by the performance of a save state operation or any other operation or instruction, as claimed by Applicant in presently amended claims 1, 10, 19, and 25.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1, 3-6, 10, 12-15, 19, 21, and 23-26 are presently in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejections

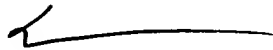
Claims 8, 9, 17, 18, 22, and 27-29 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Juffa (U.S. Patent No. 6,247,117) in view of Temple (U.S. Patent No. 5,875,342). Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are now moot in view of the above claim amendments and comments regarding independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 25. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 8, 9, 17, 18, 22, and 27-29 are presently in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional fees due, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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